

Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

Santa Barbara County, CA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, and safely clean up brownfields to promote their sustainable reuse. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, with additional funding provided for greenspace), to test assessment models and facilitate coordinated assessment and cleanup efforts at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels; and job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, a cleanup revolving loan fund program (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Santa Barbara County to receive supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. The Goleta Old Town area has served as an economic, social, and cultural focal point of the Goleta Valley since the early 1900s. During the 1950s and 1960s, military, industrial, and commercial businesses expanded in Old Town. Since that time, however, Goleta Old Town has experienced significant economic decline in the commercial, industrial, and residential sectors of the community. To a large degree, economic redevelopment has been impeded by known or suspected soil and water contamination.

Goleta Old Town has a population of approximately 5,000, 44 percent of whom are minority and 12 percent of whom live below the poverty level. Old Town developed a revitalization plan through joint public-private efforts holding more than 25 community meetings. Based on historic and current land uses, the county has identified approximately 50 potential brownfields sites. The original EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot provided data on environmental contaminants in the area and the Pilot complemented county revitalization efforts already underway.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Santa Barbara County, California

Date of Award: April 2001

Amount: \$150,000

Profile: The Pilot plans to target brownfields in the Goleta Old Town area for assessment and public outreach to stimulate cleanup and revitalization of the area.

Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 9
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Visit the EPA Region 9 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/index.html>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Santa Barbara County plans to use supplemental assistance funds to expand and continue the initial Pilot revitalization efforts, primarily focusing on conducting environmental assessments and planning for cleanup and redevelopment. The county anticipates that the assessment and planning work will help facilitate cleanup and cleanup financing and eventual reuse, thereby enhancing Old Town revitalization efforts.

The Pilot plans to:

- Complete Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments on target sites in the Pilot area;
- Conduct community involvement activities, including preparing outreach materials and holding workshops; and
- Develop site reuse plans on targeted properties.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.